

House Resolution No. 4341

Whereas, it is with special pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to acknowledge a momentous milestone in the history of one of the Show-Me State's most blessed institutions; and

Whereas, Immaculate Conception Parish in Park Hills, Missouri, commemorated the resplendent occasion of its One Hundredth Anniversary with a special Mass held September 20, 2003, which was attended by Archbishop Justin Rigali, Father Henry J. Breier, and several parishioners; and

Whereas, the first Catholic Church in Missouri's "Lead Belt", Immaculate Conception currently serves around 260 families and continues to operate a mission in Bismarck, St. John the Apostle, founded in 1879, where Mass is celebrated each Sunday; and

Whereas, established in Desloge in 1903, Immaculate Conception sponsors numerous programs and organizations that include the Knights of Columbus, Ladies Sodality, the Fifty-Plus Club, Pro-Life Committee, St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference, and a Youth Group that was established by Father James R. French and is now led by Michelle and David Nelson; and

Whereas, the congregation of Immaculate Conception has been abundantly blessed with the spiritual wisdom and leadership provided by Father French, who is one of twenty-two pastors who have served the congregation during its rich, one hundred-year history; and

Whereas, among Immaculate Conception's many activities is its annual chicken and dumpling dinner, the parish's biggest fundraiser that typically runs the first Sunday in November and is sponsored by the Ladies Sodality; and

Whereas, founded in 1940, the parish school of religion currently provides spiritual instruction and a quality education to more than 110 students; and

Whereas, Immaculate Conception is known, admired, and respected throughout the Park Hills community as a divine proclaimer of faith and friend to those in need, and continues a fine tradition of one hundred years through commitment to meeting the needs of its members, changing with the times, and looking ahead to a glorious future with God:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty congratulations to Father French and to the entire congregation of Immaculate Conception upon this very special anniversary event, and in wishing them much peace and prosperity as they continue to serve the Christian mission; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Immaculate Conception Parish in Park Hills, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Dan Ward
District No. 107

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of

Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4341, adopted October 3, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker